

February 10, 1984

LB 969, 773

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes, just two or three words. Senator Beutler, I am quite sure that we can teach those prairie dogs how to swim up there in that reservoir so we won't have to exterminate them. I move for advancement.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the advancement of LB 969. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: LB 969 is advanced. LB 773.

CLERK: 773 offered by Senator Wesely. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 4 referred to Judiciary for a hearing, advanced to General file. There are no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is simple. It was called to my attention several months ago by an editorial in the Journal after some individuals complained. The simple facts are this. If you are accused of a crime, usually you are asked to set bail. Let's say they say you need \$10,000 of bail. To get that \$10,000 set for bail, you put down \$1,000. That's what they take from you to hold and cover you for that \$10,000 bail. Now let's say you're accused of a crime that you're innocent of, that it's a mistaken identity or, or what have you. After they look at it a little more, they find in fact you're the wrong guy. So they drop the charges, even before you go to trial, even before you even make an appearance. Then they say, okay, you're innocent. We're sorry, we drop the charges but we're keeping 10 percent of that money you put up for bail so that \$1,000 you put up, you lose \$100 and that's for individuals that are innocent of any crime. And what was brought to my attention in this editorial and in the stories I heard was that that's really not fair, an innocent person having to put out money in addition to having been accused